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# Two Senseless Films Saved by Good Acting

BY SAM LESNER

Claudia Cardinale pops up in two films this week, both times as a helpful sister to have around, whether you're an Arab fighting the French in Algeria, as in "Lost Command," or an Italian scientist being held in protective custody by the CIA as in "Blindfold."

Both films are fascinating examples of how to succeed in the business of diverting an audience without really trying to make any sense.

"Lost Command" with a little more care in relating its ad-

## "LOST COMMAND"

Produced and directed by Mark Robson from a screenplay by Nelson Gidding, based on the novel, "The Centurions," by Jean Larteguy, photographed on locations in Spain by Robert Surtees; presented at the Woods Theater.

## THE CAST

Anthony Quinn as Lt. Col. Raspey  
Alain Delon as Captain Esclavier  
George Segal as Lt. Mahidi  
Michele Morgan as Countess de Clafre-  
fons  
Maurice Ronet as Captain Bolsfeuras  
Claudia Cardinale as Aicha

## "BLINDFOLD"

Produced by Marvin Schwartz, directed by Philip Dunne from a screenplay by Dunne and W. H. Menger, based on a novel by Lucille Fletcher, photographed by Joseph MacDonald; presented at the State Lake Theater.

## THE CAST

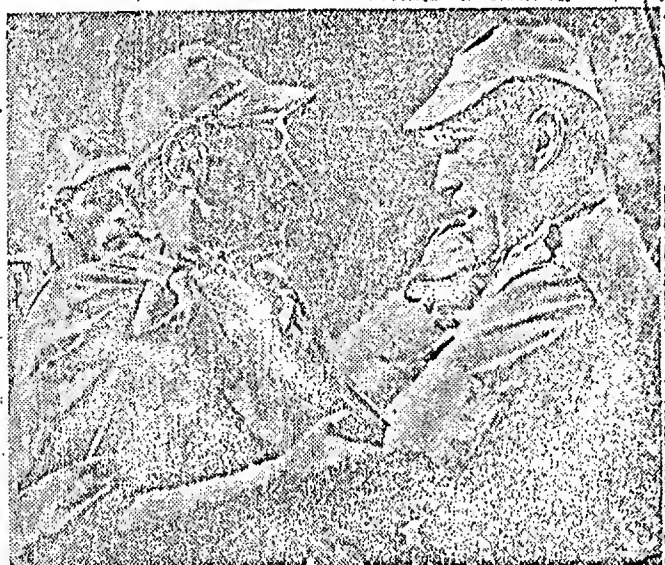
Dr. Bartholomew Snow Rock Hudson  
Vicky Vincent Claudia Cardinale  
Fitzpatrick Guy Stockwell  
General Prat Jack Warden  
Harrison Brad Dexter  
Smith Ann Seymour  
Arthur Vincenti Alejandro Rey  
Capt. Davis Earl Rhodes

venture drama to the present agonizing crisis in Viet Nam easily could have been turned into an informative and valuable piece of cinema history.

Instead, however, we have Anthony Quinn as a sort of Sgt. Quirt of a French paratroop unit. He portrays a lieutenant colonel who doesn't stand on military formalities in getting his doomed unit to inflict maximum casualties upon the sneaky enemy.

Defeated in Viet Nam, captured and subsequently repatriated to France, Quinn's unit is disbanded.

AMONG THE MORE forceful fighting men in Quinn's unit were Alain Delon as a captain who clings to a shred of morality in war ("It turns men into animals!"), Maurice Ronet as an officer who prefers to kill the enemy first and account for his actions later, and very impressive George Segal as Lt. Mahidi, an Arab by birth, who returns to Algiers rather than to France, but a French soldier whose bravery and loyalty could not be



Alain Delon and Anthony Quinn in "Lost Command."

questioned.

When Quinn's unit is re-activated, with the same cast of characters, for service in Algeria, it is discovered that Lt. Mahidi is now the leader of a formidable band of guerrillas determined to drive the French out of Algeria.

Mahidi's sister is none other than Miss Cardinale, who is brutally cuffed about by the formerly romantic Delon when he learns that she's involved in her brother Mahidi's terrorist activities.

Indochina, Algeria and Claudia are written off in a blazing two hours of war, with love playing only a very minor role.

But I believe you'll remember flashing Claudia and coolly magnificent Michele Morgan, who helps Quinn get back his command, more than you will the assorted brave French paratroopers who are familiar war drama stock characters.

Dien Bien Phu clearly led to Viet Nam today but you'd never guess it from "Lost Command."

IN "BLINDFOLD," Miss Cardinale, as a Manhattan nightclub chorine who aspires to better things, throws herself angrily at Rock Hudson in Central Park. But Hudson, as a New York society psychiatrist, is on a horse, and Claudia sustains such a badly bruised knee that Dr. Hudson has to carry her to his fancy office.

It turns out that Hudson has been pressured by U.S. intelligence agents to secretly treat a mentally disturbed young Italian scientist who is ripe for defection with a head full of American secrets.

The fellow is Claudia's brother and she's hopping mad over what she thinks is a kidnapping of the young man by Hudson and the CIA.

THIS IS REALLY too silly to summarize any further, but "Blindfold" is deftly balanced between spy spoof and straight-faced melodrama, with bursts of impudent humor in the most unexpected places.

Alligator-infested Florida swamps background much of the action and the excellent supporting cast (keep your eye on Guy Hudson, sons of Claudia and